

## Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NEAE-00

INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 OMB-01 A-01 OPR-02

SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 ACDA-07 SAM-01 SCCT-01 /099 W

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O R 191335Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 109

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4433

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STUTTGART FOR ELG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION 19 MAY 1976: MARCHING IN PLACE

REF: BEIRUT 4392 (181532Z MAY 76)

1. LITTLE MOVEMENT OF ANY DESCRIPTION IS OUTWARDLY DISCERNIBLE ON LEBANESE SCENE 19 MAY, AS MANY PUNDITS DIVIDE THEIR ATTENTION BETWEEN CONTINUING EFFORTS TO DIVINE REAL SIGNIFICANCE OF LIBYAN PRIMIN JALLOUD'S BRIEF STAY AND LOOKING TOWARD POSSIBLE LOCAL EFFECTS OF RIYADH CONFERENCE SEEKING TO RECONCILE SYRIA AND EGYPT. LEBANESE "PROGRESSIVES," LED BY KAMAL JUMBLATT, HAVE LEFT NO DOUBT RE THEIR FEARS OF POSSIBLE OUTCOME IN RIYADH BY ISSUING STATEMENT 18 MAY REJECTING IN ADVANCE NOT ONLY CONTINUED PRESENCE OF SYRIAN FORCES IN LEBANON BUT DISPATCH OF OTHER ARAB OR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY CONTINGENTS. LEFTIST ASSERTION PROVIDES FURTHER CONFIRMATION THAT JALLOUD WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN ANY EFFORT HE MAY HAVE EXERTED TO BRING SYRIANS AND JUMBLATT INTO WORKING RELATIONSHIP.

2. SUMMIT MEETING OF MARONITE LEADERS (FRANGIE, CHAMOUN, GEMAYEL, AND KASSIS) 18 MAY PRODUCED ATTACK ON JALLOUD VISIT, PARTICULARLY CASTIGATING HIM FOR TALKING TO ONLY ONE SIDE IN LEBANESE CRISIS. (INCIDENTALLY, NOSES OF KARAME AND OTHER LEBANESE OFFICIALS ARE OUT OF JOINT BECAUSE JALLOUD MADE NO OFFICIAL CALLS). MAIN RESULT OF THIS CONCLAVE AT KFOUR WAS APPEARANCE AT LEAST OF CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY AROUND INCUMBENT PRESIDENT FRANGIE IN HIS CONTINUED DALLYING IN OFFICE. PHALANGIST LEADER, PIERRE GEMAYEL, SENT SHIVERS DOWN MANY BACKS IN POST-CONFERENCE STATEMENT WHEN HE SPECULATED ALOUD THAT IT MIGHT TAKE TWO MONTHS TO EFFECT TRANSFER OF POWER TO SARKIS, GIVEN PREVAILING SECURITY SITUATION. ACCORDING TO SOURCES CLOSE TO PHALANGE, GEORGE SA'ADEH AND KARIM PAKRADOUNI WILL BE DISPATCHED TODAY OR TOMORROW TO DAMASCUS ON YET ANOTHER MISSION TO EXPLAIN THE MARONITE OUTLOOK.

3. EXCHANGES OF FIRE AND OCCASIONAL GROUND ACTIONS CONTINUE IN BEIRUT AND OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, AND HIGHER MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS SUSPENDED ITS MEETINGS SINE DIE IN VIEW OF  
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FAILURE OF VARIOUS FIGHTING FACTIONS TO HEED ITS DIRECTIVES. COUNTRYWIDE, DEATH TOLL CONTINUES TO AVERAGE TWO HUNDRED PER DAY, WITH USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE INFORMING US MORNING 19 MAY THAT DEAD FOR PERVIOUS 24 HOURS (INCLUDING CORPSES RECOVERED FROM PREVIOUS PERIODS WAS 254. HEAVIEST GROUND ACTION IN CAPITAL DURING THIS PERIOD WAS AGAIN IN PORT AREA, AS LEFTISTS AGAIN ATTEMPTED WITHOUT APPRECIABLE SUCCESS TO WREST TERRITORY FROM ENTRENCHED PHALANGISTS. FIGHTING IN METN, WHERE FATAH

FORCES ARE ENGAGED, CONTINUES AT HIGH LEVEL BUT WE ARE NOT AWARE OF SIGNIFICANT GAINS OF TERRITORY BY EITHER SIDE. ARTILLERY DUELS BETWEEN TRIPOLI AND ZGHORTA HAVE AGAIN FLARED.

4. DURING NIGHT 18/19 MAY, SEVERAL PITCHED BATTLES, THE HEAVIEST APPARENTLY IN TARIQ JDIIDE AREA NEAR ARAB UNIVERSITY, TOOK PLACE BETWEEN PRO-SYRIAN ELEMENTS (SA'QA AND KAMAL SHATILA'S NASSERITES) AND VARIOUS PALESTINIAN "REJECTIONIST" ORGANIZATIONS. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHO PROVOKED THE INCIDENTS, BUT IT IS PREMATURE TO CONCLUDE THAT SYRIANS ARE INITIATING CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAQI-ASSOCIATED BANDS IN BEIRUT.

5. AGAINST BACKDROP OF INCREASINGLY BITTER VERBAL WARFARE AMONG LEBANESE POLITICIANS (PRIMIN KARAME AGAINST JUMBLATT), PLANS ARE PROCEEDING FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS TO MEET PERSONALLY WITH JUMBLATT. SARKIS' "FIXER" GABY LAHOUD MET 18 MAY WITH JUMBLATT AND PLO EXCOMM CHAIRMAN YASSIR ARAFAT, AND EXPECTATIONS ARE HIGH THAT SARKIS WILL HAVE PERSONAL CONTACT WITH BOTH FIGURES IN NEXT FEW DAYS. IMAM MUSA AS SADR (SHIITE) IS RELIABLY REPORTED TO BE FUMING AT JUMBLATT, AND HIS "MOVEMENT OF THE DEPRIVED" HAS REQUESTED CONFIRMATION OR DENIAL FROM JUMBLATT OR REPORT THAT LATTER TOLD JALLOUD THAT PALESTINIANS COULD BE GIVEN SOUTH LEBANON (PRE-DOMINANTLY SHIITE) AS AN AREA OF UNRESTRICTED OPERATIONS. MELOY

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## Message Attributes

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